



City News | November 2015



TREE REPLACEMENTS



Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is implementing their Pipeline Pathways safety project system wide. This project will remove trees planted over, or very near, to underground gas transmission lines as tree roots have been shown to damage pipe coatings which can lead to corrosion of pipes. Although PG&E has recently inspected the integrity of all Martinez pipelines and has made necessary repairs, it is important they take steps to insure the integrity of their pipes in the future.

Additional links to information regarding the PG&E Pipeline Pathways safety

project can be found on the [City](#) website.

As part of the implementation of the project, PG&E has agreed to assist the City with the upcoming holiday events held every year downtown. They are also providing nearly seventy trees to be planted by City staff. As a result, the City is taking this opportunity to look at beautifying medians on Alhambra Avenue near Virginia Hills and on Center Avenue near Hidden Valley Park.

Due to drought predictions, droughts will become more common in California in the future. The City will be removing turf in medians and replaced with trees and native landscaping. Turf areas

require extensive maintenance and watering. Therefore, trees will also be considered for planting on Morello Avenue near Highway 4 and Alhambra Avenue near downtown. Tree species will include crape myrtle, raywood ash, chictalpa and maple armstrong.

The City is choosing to plant 15-gallon trees as this size tend to be less root bound and should outgrow larger box trees after five years. This work is planned to take place over the winter.

MAIN STREET MARTINEZ OPENS ICE RINK

Main Street Martinez is proud to bring this seasonal outdoor ice rink to downtown Martinez during the 2015-16 holiday season. This family-friendly 50'x80' Ice rink will be located at the corner of Marina Vista Ave. and Ferry St. in Downtown Martinez. The rink will be open 7 days a week, hours will vary.

Sign up for group lessons, schedule a Birthday Party or Private Party. More information can be found at the website: <http://downtownholidayice.com>.





Martinez is the 30th BEST CITY for California Families

Martinez was named the 30th Best City for California Families in a recent study from the leading personal finance outlet WalletHub.com. In order to help existing and prospective California families find the best cities in their state for putting down roots, WalletHub compared 240 Golden State cities across 22 key metrics. They range from the number of attractions to the number of pediatricians per capita to the unemployment rate.

For the full study, visit: <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-worst-cities-for-families-in-california/15993/>



FAMILY LIFE IN MARTINEZ (1=BEST; 120=AVG.)

5th	Playgrounds per 100,000 population	93rd	Percentage of Two-Parent Families
69th	High School Graduation Rate	77th	Violent Crime Rate
73rd	Percentage of Children (Newborn to Age 18) Lacking Health Insurance Coverage	45th	Percentage of Families Below Poverty Line
		55th	Wealth Gap

TAX BREAK FOR EARTHQUAKE RETROFITTING PASSES CALIFORNIA SENATE



With the State Senate's approval, property owners can now receive a 30% tax break on costs for earthquake retrofitting. The proposal passed the Senate 37 to 1 moving the bill forward and thus creating more construction jobs.

"Seismic retrofitting protects property, saves lives, and creates jobs"

Assemblyman Adrin Nazarian



PUBLIC WORKS

Amtrak painting was completed last week. Redwood Painting initially projected the project to take 4 to 6 weeks, but was finished ahead of schedule and on budget. The new polyurethane finish was applied to all of the steel trim, doors, and support structures and should provide many years of protection on metal structures.



ALHAMBRA AVENUE SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT

Several sidewalk areas on the west side of Alhambra Avenue were replaced last week. These repairs will enhance the pedestrian safety on the busy corridor.



STREET PAVING

Team Ghilotti Construction, who is the general contractor for the Harborview Reservoir Replacement Project, completed paving Harborview Dr. The street received new asphalt surfacing upon completion of a water main line installation.

ALHAMBRA CREEK SILT REMOVAL PROJECT

Crews worked 3 days to remove silt and debris from the Alhambra Creek at Main Street. This is a routine maintenance project completed every 5 to 8 years. With the threat of an El Nino or a winter of heavy rains, completing the project before November 1st became a priority to help the City 'weather' a major storm event.



EL NINO

Weather Planning & Preparation

To help you prepare for the predicted El Nino weather this coming winter, here are useful links with information on what you can do to prepare to safeguard your home and family.

- <http://www.ready.gov/ready2015>
- <http://www.ready.gov/floods>
- <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/readiness.asp>
- <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/pdf/be-ready-floods.pdf>



Picture: Councilmember AnaMarie Avila Farias, Vice Mayor Mark Ross, (back) PRMCC Commissioner Richard Patchin, Mayor Rob Schroder, Architect for the Susana Park Project Frank Kluber, PRMCC Chair Dylan Radke, Councilmember Debbie McKillop, PRMCC Vice Chair Karen Bell-Patten, (back) Martinez Veterans Commissioner Charles Martin, PRMCC Commissioner Gay Gerlack, Councilmember Lara Delaney and PRMCC Commissioner Ingmar Olsson.

SUSANNA PARK RIBBON CUTTING

The Mayor, City Council, and Parks, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission cut the ribbon on the latest Measure H project since passing of the Bond in 2008, on Tuesday, October 20 at 6:00 p.m.

The project included new pathways and sidewalks, new picnic areas, and lighting. ADA access and restroom upgrades are also a part of the project. The park has been opened for better visibility through the park. As part of a community input, the seatback portion rock benches were preserved and re-used as a planting border at the Estudillo Street park entrances.

MEASURE H UPDATE

In November 2008, voters approved Measure H, authorizing issuance of up to \$30 million in General Obligation Bonds to finance the costs of improvement to parks, the library, and the swimming pool.

The following parks have now been renovated with upgraded play equipment including ADA access: Mountain View, Susana Street, Rankin Park Pool, Rankin Park/Tavan Field, and Waterfront Park. Of which, the completed projects include Cappy Ricks, Hidden Lakes, Hidden Valley, and Holiday Highlands.

The Hidden Lakes Park Soccer Field project proposes to replace the natural turf soccer field with an artificial turf, multi-use field. Studies show the material used will meet all environmental and safety standards.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN AND SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS UPDATE

City staff recently presented an update to the City Council on progress made over the past year in support of our Climate Action Plan and Sustainability Programs. Key accomplishments included:

- Secured \$92K competitive beverage container recycling grant to fund local school recycling education programming and new downtown/parks recycling bins
- Provided second consecutive year of the California Youth Energy Services Program offering residents free energy and water conservation assessments and installations
- Initiated review of Organics (“food scraps”) recycling collection program (scheduled for Council hearing and adoption in November 2015)
- Initiated participation in the “Cool California Challenge” (see article on page 8 for more information)
- Produced and developed Water Conservation Essentials: Every Drop Counts seminar, scheduled for three-part playback in November 2015 (dates/times TBD)
- Upgraded the Amtrak Electric Vehicle Charging Station to dual port 240V capable of simultaneously charging two electric vehicles



For more details:

http://www.cityofmartinez.org/services/climate_action_plan/latest_cap_news.asp



COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (CAFR)

The purpose of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) is to provide citizens, grantor agencies, bond trustees, and other interested parties with reliable City financial information. In the past ten years, the City has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government of Finance Officers Association (GFOA). On October 13, 2015, the City’s auditor and staff reviewed the report along with the Budget Subcommittee and recommended forwarding to the City Council.

As such, Maze and Associates has completed its review and examination of the City’s financial transactions and statements for the year ended June 30, 2015. It is the opinion of the auditors the financial statements fairly represent the financial position of the City as of June 30, 2015 and the statements were prepared in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).



A Message from the Chief of Police

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

On October 19th, a Public Safety Committee meeting was held. These meetings are a great way to learn about public safety initiatives and address neighborhood issues. Several residents brought issues to our attention, such as the need for traffic enforcement. Recently, we started deploying officers to work on traffic issues in different neighborhoods, as resources permit, and plan on having a full time Traffic Enforcement Officer in the field by middle of next year to focus solely on traffic safety.

We discussed several initiatives to disseminate community crime prevention information using an email list. Crime prevention is a

powerful component to address crime and improve safety. If we can send information about crime trends and ways people can prevent from being victimized by car thieves and burglars, we can make for a safer community.

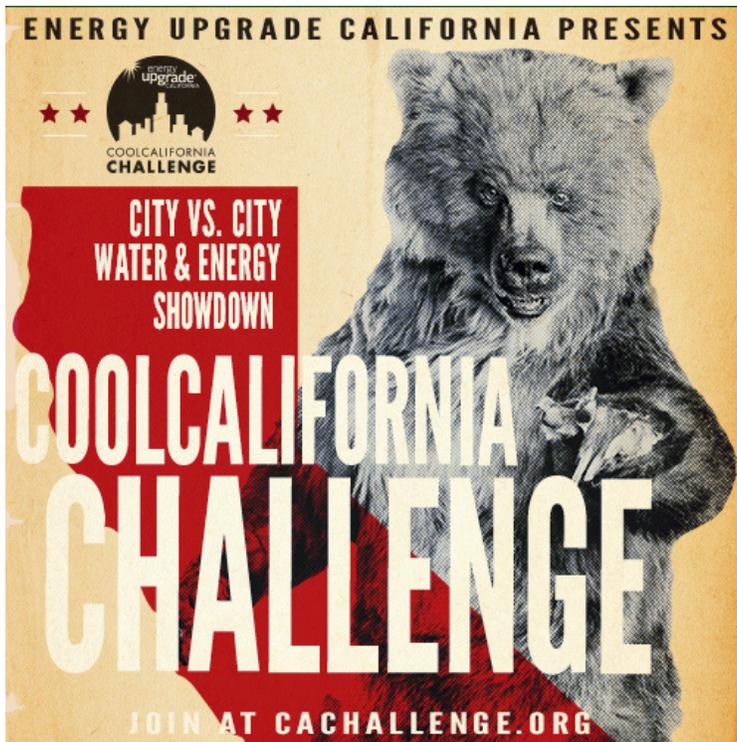
We also touched on our strategy of working with the City homeless population. This process involves assigning an officer as a subject matter expert in the downtown to build relationships with the homeless, merchants and visitors. We are focusing on nuisance and criminal behavior to promote public safety. As always, we are also relying on people to report suspicious and criminal behavior; therefore, we can follow up and take action. This goes for every neighborhood, not just for the downtown.

We are enhancing several Municipal Codes to reflect problems encountered by officers as a means of improving the

quality of life. Finally, we discussed our need to incorporate more volunteers in the police department and plan to post more information on our website in the near future. If you have the time to help promote public safety, we would like your help!

The Public Safety Subcommittee meetings take place quarterly and are presided over by Councilmembers AnaMarie Avila-Farias and Debbie McKillop. We encourage you to get involved and attend future meetings.





HOLIDAY FROLIC

MEET “BEAR” AND LEARN ABOUT THE COOL CALIFORNIA CHALLENGE!

Friday, December 4th

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Council Chambers
525 Henrietta Street, Martinez

Come to City Hall prior to the start of the Children’s Light Parade for the chance to meet “Bear,” the Cool California Challenge mascot. Bear will help spread the word about the exciting statewide Challenge, which will help our City save energy, conserve water, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. There will be food and drinks, and visitors will leave with essential sustainability tips to help them earn Challenge points for the City. Residents don’t have to wait until December 4th to join the Challenge. Sign Up Now!

www.CAChallenge.org



NIAGARA FALLS SENIOR TRIP

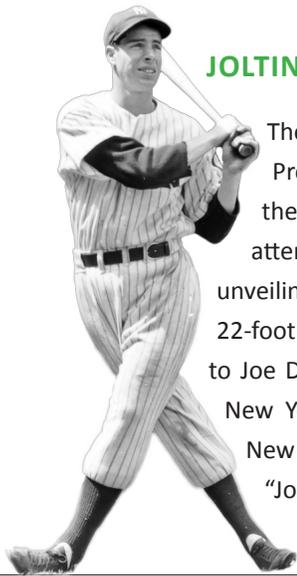
The Martinez Senior Center went on a Beautiful Fall Excursion to Niagara Falls. Our group of 16 members toured by bus both sides of Niagara Falls, took the Maid of the Mist Cruise, then drove through Fall colors of the East Coast to the Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion continuing on to Cooperstown, West Point and reaching our final Destination, the Grand Hyatt Hotel in the heart of New York City.



MARTY AND BARBARA’S HALLOWEEN HUNT

Marty and Barbara’s Halloween Hunt was held on Thursday, October 22, 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at Holiday Highlands Park. It was an old fashioned Halloween affair for ages 3-12 years old. There were crafts, candy, and face painting along with a candy hunt for 200 children! Everything was FREE! This event was sponsored by Marty and Barbara Ochoa and Martinez Recreation.





JOLTIN' JOE

The Joe DiMaggio Hometown Hero Project held a Re-Christening event at the Cobra Experience Museum. Many attendees were on hand to see the unveiling of the recently restored Joltin' Joe 22-foot Chris Craft boat that was presented to Joe DiMaggio October 1, 1949 from the New York Yankee fans, while the City of New York and the Yankees celebrated "Joe DiMaggio Day."



MARTINEZ RESTAURANT TOUR

Martinez Recreation celebrated the 11th Annual Restaurant Tour, Saturday, October 10th with fifteen establishments participating. 203 guests, some from as far away as Napa, Sunnyvale, San Francisco, Janesville and Marysville, PA, enjoyed a beautiful fall afternoon walking downtown. Guests reported the restaurants provided a good selection of foods and welcoming atmosphere. They found the food and drink samples delicious and portions generous. Many were excited to try new eateries.

The Restaurant Tour raised \$3,045. 115% of the proceeds benefit the Oohs Ahs & Giggles program, a yearlong series of free family friendly shows (puppeteers, magicians, animal acts, jugglers and more). At the end of the tour, guests vote for their favorite restaurant. All restaurants and bars received rave reviews, but the winner of the 2015 Restaurant Tour Favorite Restaurant was Barrel Aged/Barrelista. This is the second win for Barrel Aged/Barrelista. This year's winner of the Tour raffle basket is Martinez resident, Nancy Fleischaure.

The Martinez Recreation Division wishes to thank the following restaurants and their staff: Barrel Aged/Barrelista, Beaver Creek Smokehouse, Haute Stuff, La Tapatia, Lemongrass Bistro, Luigi's Deli, Main Street Sweets, Nu Ray's, Pacifica Pizza, Roxx on Main, Saucie's, Starbucks, States Coffee, Sunflower Garden, and Whiskey Lane.



Voted Best Restaurant
Barrel Aged
Barrelista



Tour Raffle
Basket Winner

Nancy
Fleischaure
Martinez Resident



Tourists
at the
Sunflower
Garden

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 4 | Wednesday

Zoning Administrator 4:00 p.m.
 City Council 6:00 p.m.

November 10 | Tuesday

Planning Commission..... 7:00 p.m.

November 11 | Wednesday

Veteran's Day - All City Offices Closed (Except Police)

November 17 | Tuesday

Parks, Rec., Marina, & Cultural Commission..... 7:00 p.m.

November 18 | Wednesday

Zoning Administrator 4:00 p.m.
 City Council 6:00 p.m.

November 24 | Tuesday

Planning Commission..... 7:00 p.m.

November 26 – 27 | Thursday & Friday

Thanksgiving - All City Offices Closed (Except Police)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Building.....	(925) 372-3550
City Clerk	(925) 372-3512
City Hall	(925) 372-3500
Engineering	(925) 372-3515
Event Information.....	(925) 372-3463
Finance/Water.....	(925) 372-3575
HR Job Hotline	(925) 372-3513
Parks & Recreation	(925) 372-3510
Police/Non-Emergency.....	(925) 372-3440
Planning.....	(925) 372-3515
Public Works.....	(925) 372-3580
Senior Center.....	(925) 370-8770

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Regular City Council Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays of every month at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Meetings are televised on Friday, following Wednesday's meeting on Public Access Channel 28 (U-Verse Channel 99) at 7:30 p.m.

MARTINEZ ELECTED OFFICIALS

- Rob Schroder, Mayor
- Mark Ross, Vice Mayor
- AnaMarie Avila Farias, Councilmember
- Debbie McKillop, Councilmember
- Lara DeLaney, Councilmember
- Richard Hernandez, City Clerk
- Carolyn Robinson, City Treasurer



City of Martinez
 525 Henrietta Street
 Martinez, CA 94553

www.cityofmartinez.org



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